

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
OF PHILADELPHIA.  
1864.

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*January 5th.*

Vice-President VAUX in the Chair.

Twenty members present.

A letter was read from Thomas B. Wilson, M. D., Newark, Del., January 1, 1864, acknowledging his election as President of the Academy.

The following was presented for publication: "The Crania of *Colymbus torquatus* and *C. Adamsii* compared." By Elliott Coues, M. D.

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*January 12th.*

Vice-President VAUX in the Chair.

Thirty members present.

The following were presented for publication:

"Description of a New Genus of the Family Melanidæ." "Description of Eleven New Species of Melanidæ," and "Description of *Planorbis Newberryi*." By Isaac Lea.

"Thoughts on the Influence of Ether in the Solar System," etc. By Alexander Wilcocks, M. D.

"Descriptions of New Polydesmidæ," and "Descriptions of New Iulidæ." By Dr. H. C. Wood, Jr.

On leave granted, Mr. Cassin presented the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

*Whereas*, our eminent and highly-esteemed associate and President, ISAAC LEA, LL. D., having declined being a candidate for re-election to the position of chief officer of this Academy, has retired therefrom:—

*Resolved*, That the Academy does hereby express its most grateful  
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sense of the entire faithfulness, impartiality, and eminent ability with which Dr. Lea performed the duties of President during the lengthened term of his incumbency.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Academy be hereby tendered to Dr. Lea for his most valuable and important services in the capacity of President, and for his many other judicious and liberal favors and continued and successful exertions for the benefit of this Academy and for the advancement of the interests of Science in the United States.

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January 19th.

Vice-President VAUX in the Chair.

Eighteen members present.

The following was presented for publication:—"Notes of Botanical Visits to the lower part of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland." By Wm. M. Canby.

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January 26th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Twenty-one members present.

On report of the respective committees, the following were ordered to be published:—

**Description of a new Genus of the Family MELANIDÆ.**

BY ISAAC LEA.

Genus MESECHIZA.\*

Testa fusiformis, imperforata. Apertura rhomboidea, infernè canaliculata. Labrum expansum, in medio excisum. Columella lævis, incurvata. Operculum corneum ad spiram pertinens.

When I described the genus *Trypanostoma*,† I mentioned the importance of eliminating as many species as possible from the enormously-extended genus *Melania*. The little shell which I now propose as a new genus has so distinct a character in the incision of the middle of the outer lip, as to mark perfectly its place in the *Melanidæ* of the United States. It differs entirely in the character of the cut from that in *Schizostoma*, which has, in all the many species I have seen, a more or less deep incision immediately under the suture. The living soft parts have not yet been observed. They may, when examined, prove to have some characteristics quite different from *Schizostoma*.

MESECHIZA GROSVENORII.—Testâ lævi, fusiformi, tenui, obtusè conicâ, vel purpureâ vel vittatâ; spirâ obtusè conicâ; suturis leviter impressis; anfractibus instar septenis, vix convexis; aperturâ magnâ, rhomboideâ, intus plerumquè vittatâ; labro acuto, in medio leviter exciso; columellâ parum incrassatâ et contortâ.

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\* Μεση, σχιζή, central fissure.

† Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences, vol. v. p. 268, and "Observations," vol. ix. p. 90.